

Message Text

PAGE 01 LONDON 18586 111546Z
ACTION ERDA-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0252

UNCLAS LONDON 18586

FOR DOE, NORMAN BRAND, PASS FEINROTH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TCH, U.K.
SUB: VISIT U.S. REACTOR CORE WORKING GROUP

REF: BRAND LETTER NOV. 2

1. HOTEL BOOKINGS FOR LONDON (BRITANNIA HOTEL) AS
FOLLOWS:
FEINROTH (DOUBLE), DEC. 2 THRU 7 (5 DAYS); DEC. 12 THRU
16 (4 DAYS),
WEBER (SINGLE), NOV. 27 THRU DEC. 1 (4 DAYS), DEC. 2 THRU
3 (2 DAYS), DEC. 6 (1 DAY),
VITTI (SINGLE), DEC. 2 THRU 3 (2 DAYS), DEC. 6 (1 DAY),
DICKSON (SINGLE), MAKING OWN ARRANGEMENTS.
SIM (DOUBLE), MAKING OWN ARRANGEMENTS.
COX (SINGLE), DEC. 2 THRU 3 (2 DAYS), DEC. 6 (1 DAY),
TILL (SINGLE), DEC. 2 THRU 3 (2 DAYS), DEC. 6 (1 DAY).

2. HOTEL BOOKINGS FOR LIVERPOOL (ALEXANDRA COURT
HOTEL, ALEXANDRA DRIVE, LIVERPOOL 17, NEAR TO AIRPORT)
AS FOLLOWS:
DEC. 1 - FEINROTH (SINGLE)
VITTI DITTO
COX DITTO
TILL DITTO
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3. HOTEL BOOKINGS FOR RISLEY (OLD VICARAGE HOTEL,
STRETTON, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE) AS FOLLOWS:
DEC. 1 - WEBER (SINGLE)
DICKSON DITTO
OMBERG DITTO
BARTHOLD DITTO
SIM (DOUBLE)
DEC.4&5- WEBER (SINGLE)
VITTI DITTO
COX DITTO

TILL DITTO
DICKSON DITTO
SIM (DOUBLE)
DEC.6 - DICKSON (SINGLE)

4. PLEASE CONFIRM ABOVE ARE IN ORDER.

5. RE HIRE OF LIGHT AIRCRAFT FOR VISIT TO DOUNREAY
SCI COUNS OFFICE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH D.W. HARRIS OF
UKAEA WHO INFORMS US THAT MR. AMAROSE OF ARGON NAT.
LABS. WISHES TO JOIN TRIP. WE HAVE NO INFO ABOUT
AMAROSE'S VISIT. PLEASE ELUCIDATE. HARRIS ALSO INFO'S
US THAT UNKNOWN PERSON BY NAME OF SHELBY BREWER WISHES
TO JOIN TRIP ALSO. HARRIS IS CHECKING ON HIM THRU
JOHN GAUNT, BRITISH EMBASSY, WASH. IF ALRIGHT
FOR THESE TWO TO JOIN TRIP TO DOUNREAY REQUIRE
OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION BY YOU BY CABLE ASAP.

6. BEFORE HIRING AIRCRAFT REQUIRE OFFICIAL REQUEST WITH
FULL BUDGET AUTHORIZATION NUMBER. NUMBER TELEPHONED
BY CATHY WHITE, DOE, WAS INCOMPLETE (PROBABLY A TRAVEL
ORDER NUMBER).
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7. WHEN OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF ABOVE RECEIVED,
SCI COUNS OFFICE WILL GO AHEAD AND HIRE FOUR OR SIX
SEATER LIGHT AIRCRAFT AS APPROPRIATE.

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 SSM-03 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /106 W

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R 111412Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0250
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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NOFORN

THINK THE ISRAELIS ARE QUITE MISTAKEN TO BELIEVE, AS REPORTED IN PARA 12 OF REFTEL (B), THAT NEW ENERGY SOURCES SUCH AS NORTH SEA OIL WILL EFFECTIVELY LESSEN OVERALL WEST EUROPEAN DEPENDENCE ON ARAB OIL. WHILE IT WILL CERTAINLY LESSEN BRITAIN'S OWN DIRECT DEPENDENCE ON IT AND WHILE THE NET FLOW OF BRITISH NORTH SEA OIL IS EXPECTED TO BE EQUAL TO OR EXCEED BRITISH CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS FOR A PERIOD BEGINNING AROUND 1980, MUCH OF THIS OIL IS OF A CONSISTENCY THAT CURRENTLY HAS TO BE TRADED FOR OTHER GRADES OF IMPORTED OIL. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE REST OF THE EC-9, WITH WHOSE
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ECONOMIES THE ECONOMY OF BRITAIN IS INCREASINGLY INTER-
TWINED, HAVE NO PRACTICAL SUBSTITUTE FOR IMPORTED OIL
IN SIGHT.

4. THE FOREGOING PROVIDES THE BACKGROUND SETTING FOR THE IMPENDING BEGIN VISIT. WE AGREE WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF BEGIN'S REASONS FOR WISHING TO VISIT BRITAIN AS SET FORTH IN PARA 11 OF REFTEL (B). TO ADD A PHRASE, THE FCO BELIEVES BEGIN SEEKS A PARTICULAR SEAL OF RESPECTABILITY FROM VISITING AND BEING ACCEPTED BY THE MOTHER OF PARLIAMENTS.

5. THE BRITISH ALSO HAD SPECIFIC MOTIVATIONS FOR EXTENDING THE INVITATION TO BEGIN. ACCORDING TO THE FCO NEAR EAST DEPT, THESE REASONS WERE BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE BEGIN HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO THE BRITISH THAT HE WOULD NOT COME TO THE UNITED KINGDOM UNLESS HE WAS INVITED, AND THE FCO DID NOT WISH TO DAMAGE PRESENT CLOSE ANGLO-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIPS BY WITHHOLDING AN INVITATION. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE BEGIN HAS REMAINED A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN PERSONALITY TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE LATTER WANTED TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIM. THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR MINISTERS ARE SO BOOKED UP THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR ANY OF THEM TO VISIT ISRAEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND THEREFORE, IT APPEARED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL CONTACT WITH BEGIN UNTIL 1978 UNLESS HE WERE INVITED TO VISIT BRITAIN THIS YEAR.

6. HMG WILL HAVE THREE OBJECTIVES DURING THE BEGIN VISIT, ACCORDING TO THE FCO NEAR EAST DEPT: FIRST, TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THE POSITION OF THE UK AND THE REST OF
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THE EC-9 ON THE NATURE OF AN ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT AS SET FORTH IN THE EC STATEMENT OF JUNE 29; SECOND, TO CONVEY THE BRITISH ASSESSMENT THAT THE ARABS ARE SERIOUS IN THEIR DESIRE FOR PEACE; AND THIRD, TO URGE BEGIN TO BE FLEXIBLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND NOT CREATE FURTHER OBSTACLES TO A SETTLEMENT. IN SO DOING, THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL ATTEMPT TO BACKSTOP US EFFORTS. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL EMBASSIES THE FCO IS STATING THAT IT WILL TAKE THE SAME LINE AS THE PRIME MINISTER TOOK IN HIS OCTOBER 23 SPEECH TO THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS (LONDON 17611). THE BRITISH WILL ALSO REASSURE BEGIN OF HMG'S EVENHANDED POLICY IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE AND OF HMG'S COMMITMENT TO ISRAELI SECURITY AND ISRAELI'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE. THE BRITISH DO NOT PROPOSE TO HAVE A FORMAL SET AGENDA FOR THE TALKS.

7. WHILE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE TREATMENT OF THE VISIT IN THE BRITISH PRESS SO FAR, IT IS APPARENT THAT THERE IS A CURRENT OF DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO THE VISIT IN THE UK, WHERE IRGUN ACTIVITIES THIRTY YEARS AGO ARE STILL REMEMBERED. SYMPTOMATIC OF THIS WAS A STATEMENT BRIEFLY REPORTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE TIMES OF OCTOBER 20 BY MP DAVID WATKINS, SPEAKING FOR A PRO-ARAB GROUP OF LABOR MP'S, "REGRETTING" THAT BEGIN IS BEING INVITED TO VISIT. BOTH THE FOREIGN EDITOR OF THE JEWISH CHRONICLE AND AN ISRAELI EMBOFF HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED SOME TREPIDATION AS WELL AS RESENTMENT TO EMBOFF OVER THIS TYPE OF BRITISH OBJECTION; THEY ASKED RHETORICALLY, "WHY IS BEGIN REFERRED TO HERE AS A TERRORIST WHEREAS WHEN FIGURES SUCH AS MAKARIOS OR KENYATTA COME TO TOWN, THEIR TERRORIST BACKGROUNDS ARE NOT MENTIONED." THE DEGREE OF ANTI-BEGIN MANIFESTATIONS, ACCORDING TO FCO OFFICERS WORKING ON THE VISIT, IS COMPOUNDING THE SECURITY PROBLEM WHICH HMG IS PREPARING TO COPE WITH. TOM MCNALLY, CALLAGHAN'S POLITICAL ADVISER, HAS TAKEN
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PERSONAL CHARGE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT.
8. SCHEDULE: BEGIN'S SCHEDULE WILL BE BASED ON HIS MEDICAL NEED TO REST FREQUENTLY. UPON ARRIVING AT NOON ON NOVEMBER 20, HE IS SCHEDULED TO GO STRAIGHT

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USMISSION USNATO
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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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TO SEE THE PRIME MINISTER. HE IS THEN SCHEDULED TO
REST UNTIL DINNER, WHICH WILL BE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.
THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION WILL OPEN AT 10 AM NOVEMBER
21 AND LAST UNTIL LUNCH, WHICH WILL BE A WORKING LUNCH.
THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER REST FOR BEGIN, AFTER
WHICH THERE WILL BE A SHORT CONCLUDING SESSION. THIS
WILL BE THE END OF BEGIN'S FORMAL TALKS WHICH ARE THUS
EXPECTED TO TOTAL ONLY BETWEEN 3 AND 4 HOURS.

9. THE FCO ASSUMES THAT BEGIN WILL HAVE A FEW TOPICS
OF HIS OWN TO RAISE. THE FCO EXPECTS HIM TO COMPLAIN
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ABOUT THE LACK OF ARAB BOYCOTT LEGISLATION SIMILAR TO
THAT PASSED BY THE US AND BELIEVES HE MAY DEMAND ACTION
BY THE EC-9 AGAINST THE BOYCOTT (BRITISH ZIONISTS HAVE
BEEN DEMANDING THAT HMG CEASE AUTHENTICATING SIGNATURE
CERTIFICAT ONS FR BOYCOTT PURPOSES). BEGIN WILL ALSO
PROBABLY EXPRESS CONCERN OVER BRITISH ARMS SALES TO

ARAB COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, AND EGYPT (AS THE ISRAELI EMBASSY HAS TO US). IF THERE IS TIME FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS, THE BRITISH AND BEGIN MAY EXCHANGE VIEWS ON AFRICAN TOPICS SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA AND THE HORN. AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS ON NOVEMBER 21, THE FCO EXPECTS THAT BEGIN WILL SEE CALLAGHAN AGAIN ONLY WHEN HE GIVES HIM A RETURN DINNER THAT EVENING AND WHEN HE BIDS HIM FAREWELL.

10. THE BRITISH SIDE AT THE FORMAL TALKS WILL PROBABLY CONSIST OF PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN, FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN (IF HE IS NOT IN BRUSSELS), AMBASSADOR MASON, FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY WEIR, AND ONE OF CALLAGHAN'S AIDES. THE FCO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE ISRAELI DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF BEGIN, AMBASSADOR KIDRON, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL EVRON, DIRECTOR OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S BUREAU KADISHAI, THE MILITARY AIDE TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE POLITICAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AND TWO OTHER ADVISORS.

11. BEGIN PLANS TO DEVOTE NOVEMBER 22 PRIMARILY TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE UK. ACCORDING TO THE FCO, THE ISRAELIS PROPOSED HOLDING A PUBLIC RALLY IN ALBERT HALL, BUT THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, CONCERNED BY THE SECURITY AND OTHER PROBLEMS POSED, SCOTCHED THIS IDEA, TELLING THE ISRAELIS THAT SUCH PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD UNDO THE GOOD WILL WHICH IT IS HOPED THE
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TALKS WILL CREATE. IN GIVING US THE SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 22 AND 23, THE ISRAELI EMBASSY NOTED THE SECURITY PROBLEM THE VISIT WILL ENTAIL AND ASKED US TO KEEP THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON A "NOFORN" BASIS. ON NOVEMBER 22 BEGIN WILL MEET WITH LEADERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, FRIENDS AMONG ADHERENTS OF HIS HERUT PARTY IN THE COMMUNITY, AND SOME BRITISH EDITORS. HE WILL TAKE PART IN A FUND-RAISING LUNCH WITH THE JEWISH APPEAL. HE WILL ALSO MEET WITH CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER MARGARET THATCHER AND HER "SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY" JOHN DAVIES. ON NOVEMBER 23, HIS LAST DAY, BEGIN WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND MEET WITH THE ANGLO-ISRAELI FRIENDSHIP GROUPS IN THE LABOR, LIBERAL, AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES. THE ISRAELIS HOPE TO ARRANGE A TELEVISION INTERVIEW IN WHICH BEGIN WILL BE ABLE TO PROJECT THE GENTLY-MANNERED NON-STRIDENT FACET OF HIS PERSONALITY TO THE BRITISH PUBLIC. BECAUSE OF THE SECURITY PROBLEM, THE ISRAELI EMBASSY HAS PUBLICLY RELEASED VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE VISIT.

12. COMMENT: THE LIMITED BRITISH ECONOMIC AND ARMS SALES RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL DOES NOT GIVE THE UK ANY DIRECT LEVERAGE WITH THE GOI, AND THE GREAT IMPORTANCE

FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY OF BRITISH ARMS SALES TO THE MODERATE ARAB STATES SUGGESTS THAT THE BRITISH WOULD BE UNWILLING TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE ISRAELIS BY UNDERTAKING TO REDUCE THE VOLUME OF SUCH SALES. HOWEVER, ASIDE FROM THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY OTHER POWER TO WHICH ISRAELI REGIME IS WILLING TO LISTEN SERIOUSLY IF ONLY BECAUSE OF THE SENSE OF SHARED VALUES AND THE PRESTIGE BRITAIN RETAINS IN ISRAEL. ACCORDINGLY, IF THE VISIT GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, IT CAN ONLY HELP CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF US AS WELL AS UK POLICY OBJECTIVES.

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